

Thursday: Conservation Action

Habitats around the world are facing challenges.

One of the biggest issues is habitat loss; where the natural ecosystem, native plant cover, or waterways, for the purpose of improving resources for humans. Most of the time, habitat loss is not done in a malicious way. A river is dammed to provide more water for people, a wetland drained to create dry land to build a hospital, or a forest cut down to make pastures for residents to raise cattle to feed their family. The challenge is, while there are benefits to humans, wildlife experiences negative side effects from these changes.

Rainforests are not excluded from the impact of habitat loss, but we can support rainforest conservation from right in our hometowns! Many of the products we use and the food we eat have a connection to items farmed in areas that were once rainforest ecosystems. By doing a little reading now, you can be prepared to support companies that support rainforest conservation over ones that don't. By making informed purchases as a family you can support sustainable and rainforest friendly companies.



Download the Orangutan Friendly Palm Oil app for your smartphone; doing so will help you and your family make informed decisions related to palm oil. Palm oil is in many food and beauty products, but the app showcases companies that believe in rainforest conservation and protecting the home of animals like orangutans. Or, look for the Rainforest Alliance Certified logo on brands to be sure that the company has promised to produce their product in a manner that helps sustain rainforest habitats.

Supply List

None

Activity Instructions

Rainforest Friendly Scavenger Hunt

1. Familiarize yourself with the Rainforest Alliance Certified logo.
2. Search for this logo on items your family has purchased
 - a. Check food, drinks, or even tissue box packaging for this label!
3. Count how many items your family has purchased that promises to protect rainforest ecosystems.



Alternate versions:

- Continue the scavenger hunt at home! Look for how many food (or beauty products) have palm oil in their ingredients lists.
- Take the scavenger hunt to new places! Next time you are at the grocery store with your family, see how many Rainforest Alliance Certified logos you can spot.
 - Bonus points if you spot an item that your family would normally buy from a different brand and discuss if it would be reasonable to purchase the alternate version of that item that protects the rainforest!

Digital Resource (Optional)

Option 1:

Everyone, no matter your age or where you live, can create positive change for rainforest habitats. Find out how you can become a rainforest ambassador for Rainforest Trust. <https://www.rainforesttrust.org/ambassadors/>

Option 2:

Did you know that much of the food and beauty products we use contain palm oil? Palm oil is in high demand because of the low cost associated when mass farmed. To create the quantities the food and beauty industries want, rainforests are being damaged to meet the demand.

Find out more about how we can make small changes in our daily routine to support companies that have made the promise to source palm oil that is produced in a way to have a minimal impact on wildlife habitat.

<https://www.cmzoo.org/conservation/orangutans-palm-oil/>

(or video option)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aWgf12YxJRU#action=share>